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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/589,526	06/07/2000	Keiji Usuba	16869P-008300US	1152

20350 7590 03/24/2004

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EXAMINER

SINGH, DALZID E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/589,526

Applicant(s)

USUBA ET AL.

Examiner

Dalzid Singh

Art Unit

2633

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 17, 19-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kremer (US Patent No. 5,406,401).

Regarding claim 17, Kremer discloses network transmission system, shown in Fig. 1, comprising:

a plurality of nodes (nodes 101-104), wherein upon a fault condition in which obstacles (i.e., failure) have occurred in more than one group in at least one of said plurality of nodes, said node suffering said fault condition isolates itself from others of said plurality of nodes in said network transmission system (see col. 7, lines 67-68 to col. 8, lines 1-12, Kremer discloses isolation (squelching) of the node in the event of failure).

Regarding claims 19 and 21, Kremer discloses that the isolation instruction information (i.e., switching request) further comprises said overhead indicating that said synchronous multiplex signals to be received are in a signal obstacle condition (failure signal), see col. 3, lines 3-20, lines 53-68 and col. 4, lines 41-64, where Kremer discloses overhead signals requesting and acknowledging failure signal.

Regarding claim 20, Kremer discloses that the isolation instruction information further comprises said overhead instructing a ring switch transmitting, upon reception, the received synchronous multiplex signals (see col. 3, lines 3-20, lines 53-68 and col. 4, lines 41-64).

Regarding claim 22, (as far as understood), Kremer discloses that the isolation instruction information further comprises in no signal condition caused by stopping the transmission of said optical transmitter (as discussed above and in col. 4, lines 1-2 Kremer discloses LOS of signal which is transmitted in event of fault occurrence).

Regarding claims 23 and 25, Kremer discloses that upon occurrence of said obstacle (i.e., failure) prepares as said isolation instruction of the following:

said isolation instruction information is said overhead indicating that said received synchronous multiplex signals are both in signal obstacle conditions (as discussed above in claim 19-21, Kremer disclose isolation instruction (i.e., switching instruction) of the obstacle condition (failure condition)).

Regarding claim 24, Kremer disclose network transmission system, shown in Fig. 1, comprising:

preparing isolation information (i.e., switching information) into an instruction signal according to said plurality of substantially contemporaneous faults (Kremer discloses request and acknowledgement for switching action, see col. 3, lines 1-20);

providing said isolation information to at least one of a plurality of adjacent network nodes (see col. 3, lines 1-20, the overhead signal containing isolation

(switching) instruction is transmitted within the network comprising of nodes, see Fig. 1);
and

switching said transmission lines based upon said instruction signal so that
said synchronous multiplex signals may be transmitted to either of said transmission
lines properly (see col. 4, lines 41-64).

Regarding claim 26, Kremer discloses that the network further comprises a
SONET network (see col. 2, lines 57-59).

Regarding claim 27, Kremer discloses that the SONET network is a 2 fiber
BLSR network (see Fig. 1, Kremer shows two fibers network).

Regarding claim 28, Kremer discloses that the SONET network is a 4 fiber
BLSR network (see col. 1, lines 58-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
over Kremer (US Patent No. 5,406,401) in view of Bala et al (US Patent No. 6,272,154).

Regarding claims 11 and 18, Kremer discloses network transmission system,
shown in Fig. 1, comprising:

transmitters and receivers (Fig. 2 shows signal coming into the node and signal going out of the node, therefore there must be transmitter and receiver in the node to transmit and receive the signal);

cross connect unit (i.e., switch) which switches the output signal (see col. 3, lines 35-65);

equipment supervision unit (since fault is monitored, therefore there must be an equipment supervision unit to monitor condition of the lines); and

wherein upon a fault condition in which obstacles (i.e., failure) have occurred in more than one group in at least one of said plurality of nodes, said node suffering said fault condition isolates itself from others of said plurality of nodes in said network transmission system (see col. 7, lines 67-68 to col. 8, lines 1-12, Kremer discloses isolation (squelching) of the node in the event of failure).

Kremer differ from this claim in that Kremer does not specifically disclose clock unit that supplies clock to the cross connect unit. However, Bala et al teach the use of clock for the cross connect unit (see col. 16, lines 52-55 and col. 18, lines 4-9). Since it is well known to use clock unit for cross connect, as evidenced by Bala et al, therefore it would have been obvious to provide clock unit for the cross connect of Kremer in order to control timing of the cross connect. The motivation of providing clock unit to the cross connect is to provide an accurate regulation of switching data signal to a different transmission lines.

Regarding claims 12 and 14, Kremer discloses that the isolation instruction information (i.e., switching request) further comprises said overhead indicating that said

synchronous multiplex signals to be received are in a signal obstacle condition (failure signal), see col. 3, lines 3-20, lines 53-68 and col. 4, lines 41-64, where Kremer discloses overhead signals requesting and acknowledging failure signal.

Regarding claim 13, Kremer discloses that the isolation instruction information further comprises said overhead instructing a ring switch transmitting, upon reception, the received synchronous multiplex signals (see col. 3, lines 3-20, lines 53-68 and col. 4, lines 41-64).

Regarding claim 15, (as far as understood), Kremer discloses that the isolation instruction information further comprises in no signal condition caused by stopping the transmission of said optical transmitter (as discussed above and in col. 4, lines 1-2 Kremer discloses LOS of signal which is transmitted in event of fault occurrence).

Regarding claim 16, Kremer discloses that upon occurrence of said obstacle (i.e., failure) prepares as said isolation instruction of the following:

said isolation instruction information is said overhead indicating that said received synchronous multiplex signals are both in signal obstacle conditions (as discussed above in claim 19-21, Kremer disclose isolation instruction (i.e., switching instruction) of the obstacle condition (failure condition)).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-10 are allowed.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The instant application is directed to a nonobvious improvement over the invention described in patent no. 5,406,401 to Kremer. The improvement comprises:

a cross connect unit that divides and multiplexes said payload inputted from said overhead processing unit, switches output routes of said payload for transmission to either of said transmission lines, and outputs to the overhead processing unit again,

a clock unit that supplies a clock to at least said cross connect unit,

an equipment supervision unit that supervises at least said cross connect unit and said clock unit and outputs an instruction signal based upon the result of the supervision,

a switching control unit that controls switching of the transmission lines so that, being based upon said instruction signal and said overhead, said cross connect unit, said overhead processing unit and said optical transmitter, said synchronous multiplex signals may be transmitted to either of said transmission lines properly; and wherein

upon said equipment supervising unit detecting a condition in which obstacles have occurred in more than one group in at least either of said cross connect unit and said clock unit, said equipment supervision unit inserts information about said obstacles in said instruction signal, and said switching control unit into which said instruction signal is inputted enables said overhead processing unit and the optical transmitter to output isolation instruction information to said transmission line. This patentable distinction is included in claim 1.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 19 December 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the reference, Kremer, does not disclose that a failing node isolates itself. However, as disclose on pages 9 and 10 of the specification, applicant teaches that a node isolates itself by sending "isolation instruction information". Ring switches of adjacent nodes, upon receiving the isolation instruction, alter path of the signal. The reference, in col. 10, lines 33-47, teaches that a failed node transmits a loss-of-signal to adjacent nodes. Upon receiving the loss-of-signal, the adjacent nodes alter path of the signal, which then isolates the failed node. Therefore, the reference teaches isolating itself from the network by transmitting a loss-of-signal which is an isolating instruction information.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of


the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalzid Singh whose telephone number is 703-306-5619. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8am - 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on 703-305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DS
March 17, 2004


JASON CHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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